GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1643
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2005
POPULATION TO JUDGE RATIO
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the population-to-Judge ratio in each of the States/Union Territories in the country;

(b) the percentage of gross national product in India spent on the judiciary to deliver justice;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy to strengthen judicial system in the country and improve the population-to-judge ratio to a satisfactory level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K.VENKATAPATHY)

(a) to (d) Under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate Judicial Service vests with the concerned High Court. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to article 309 read with articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the State Government frames rules and regulations in consultation with the High Court. The members of the State Judicial Service are governed by these rules and regulations. Therefore, the appointments, posting/transfers and other service conditions of judicial officers of the District/Subordinate Courts are governed by the respective State Governments. The Central Government, therefore, has not maintained the figure of the population-to-judge ratio and the total expenditure incurred on judiciary in each of the States/Union Territories . in the country.

However, the present judge strength in India is 13 per miliion population (approx.). The First National Judicial Commission in its report submitted in the year 1999 had reported that the expenditure on the judiciary in the country is 0.2 per cent of the GNP.

As stated above it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to provide infrastructure facilities for the judiciary. In order to augment the resources of the State Governments and UTs. Central Government has. however, been providing funds for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary through various plans. Department of Justice has a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of judicial infrastructure. Under the scheme, the Centre and the States together have spent nearly Rs. 1150 crores in the last decade to construct court houses and residences for judicial officers.

Department of Justice has also identified a few core areas where judicial reforms are needed on priority basis to strengthen judicial system in the country. These include continuation of existing Fast Track Court (FTC`s), creation of additional FTCs. Computerization of District and Subordinate judiciary and creation of physical infrastructure. The Government has approved continuation of the existing 1562 Fast Track Courts for further period of 5 years i.e. upto 31-03-2010 with a provision of Rs. 509 Crores as 100% Central funding. The Govt. has also approved Central Sector Project for computerization of subordinate judiciary at a cost of Rs. 384.53 crore.